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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 000592

SIPDIS

STATE FOR PRM, GENEVA FOR RMA, ROME FOR DHS, ABIDJAN AND
NAIROBI FOR REFCOORDS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/25/2013

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SUBJECT: ACCRA CANADIAN REP VOICES INTEREST IN TAKING
DENIED REFUGEES FOR ADMISSIONS

Classified By: Refugee Coordinator Carla T. Nadeau for Reasons 1.5 (b)
and (d)

1. (C) This is an action request, see paragraph 5.

2. (C) Summary: Regional Refugee Coordinator (Refcoord) for Admissions, Carla Nadeau met with Canadian High Commission Immigration Officer Elizabeth Snow to discuss refugee admissions issues in West Africa. Snow voiced interest in reviewing Refugee Access Verification Unit (RAVU) revoked and/or denied U.S. Refugee Program (USRP) priority three (P-3) cases. Upon review, the Canadians would consider some for eventual admission to the Canadian refugee program. Asked whether the possibility existed to share information on the reason for revocation/denial, Snow stated fraudulent relationships would not necessarily rule applicants out. Refcoord promised to convey request to Washington. End Summary.

2. (C) Refcoord paid a courtesy call on Elizabeth Snow of the Canadian High Commission to discuss refugee issues in West Africa. Following background discussion, Snow explained that due to heavy domestic political pressure, she had been given a message to quote shake the trees unquote to find more numbers for the refugee resettlement program in Canada. With a world wide ceiling of 7,300 of which 400 are slated for W. African admissions, Canada expects at the current rate to come up quite short for the admissions year which ends in December. Commiserating that UNHCR Priority one (P-1) referrals were slow in coming, Snow asked whether the USG would be interested in sharing information on RAVU revoked/denied P-3 cases. Not promising large scale resettlement, Snow opined that after reviewing a sampling of cases and disregarding relationship fraud, as opposed to direct misrepresentation, the Canadians could possibly resettle some 1,000 of the USRP's W. African P-3 caseload. Refcoord promised Snow that her proposal would be conveyed to the appropriate figures in the USG.

3. (C) Comment: It appears that the U.S. is not the only country experiencing domestic political pressure to increase refugee arrivals. At first glance, sharing case file information under current MOU's with Canada with the aim of eventually resettling this caseload may be a good opportunity to burden-share with our neighbor. However, given that this P-3 caseload in W. Africa is anchor-based, albeit often fraudulently so, the USG may eventually have to contend with the effects of secondary migration.

4. (C) Action Request: Post requests Department guidance on the Canadian proposal to share information on RAVU denied/revoked P-3 cases for possible resettlement in Canada.
YATES